

**ADAPTIVE FACIAL RECOGNITION SYSTEM AND METHOD****ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

An adaptive face recognition system and method. The system includes a database configured to store a plurality of face classes; an image capturing system for capturing  
5 images; a detection system, wherein the detection system detects face images by comparing captured images with a generic face image; a search engine for determining if a detected face image belongs to one of a plurality of known face class; and a system for generating a new face class for the detected face image if the search engine determines that the detected face image does not belong to one of the known face classes. In the  
10 event that the search engine determines that the detected face image belongs to one of the known face classes, an adaptive training system adds the detected face to the associated face class.